

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office action of February 6, 2004 references cited therein have been carefully considered.

In this Amendment all of the rejected claims, i.e., claims 1-5, have been canceled and replaced by new claims 6-10. In view of the discussion of these new claims, particularly claim 6, during the interview with the Examiners on April 28, 2004 and the agreement during the interview that new claim 6 distinguished over the prior art of record and would not present any new issues for consideration, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

The Examiners, Mr. Lowell A. Larson and Mr. Jimmy Nguyen are thanked for the courteous interview afforded the undersigned counsel on April 28, 2004. During the interview the invention as disclosed in the application and now more specifically defined in claim 6 was extensively discussed. In particular, it was pointed out that the present invention as now defined in claim 6, and as previously defined in claim 5, relates to a production series of presses including a plurality of different presses all containing certain common characteristics. More specifically, it is pointed out that the invention is clearly discussed in the remarks accompanying the last Amendment, and rather than repeat same here, they are incorporated herein by reference.

It was further pointed out that claim 6 essentially corresponds in intended scope to prior claim 5 as allowed during the earlier prosecution of the application, but has been rewritten to more specifically define the invention in light of the Examiner's suggestions and subsequent formal rejections. After some discussion, it was agreed that claim 6 now clearly defines the invention as disclosed, discussed and argued and essentially as intended by original claim 5. Moreover, it was agreed that claim 6 overcame the formal rejections of the previous claim 5.

With regard to the prior art of record, and in particular the patent to Itakura used in rejecting claim 5, it was pointed out that this reference discloses only a single multi-station press with a common single frame, rather than the plurality of presses with

respective frames and certain other common characteristics as defined in claim 6. It was therefore agreed that claim 6, a now presented, clearly distinguished over the prior art of record.


Newly present claims 7-10 all are dependent on claim 6, with claims 7 and 8 essentially corresponding respectively to original claims 2 and 3, but dependent on claim 6. No claim corresponding to original claim 3 has been presented since the limitations thereof appear to be superfluous in view of the limitations now contained in claim 6. Finally, new claims 9 and 10, which likewise depend from claim 6 recite additional limitations of the invention that were not previously recited in the claims. Support for the limitations of these additional claims is found, for example, on page 3, lines 7-11 of the present application. In any case, claims 7-10 are each dependent on claim 6, and in view of the Examiner's statement during the interview that all claims properly dependent from claim 6 would be allowable over the prior art of record and raise no new issues requiring further search and/or consideration, it is submitted that claims 7-10 likewise are allowable over the prior art of record.

In view of the agreements reached at the interview, and for the above stated reasons, it is submitted that each of claims 6-10 is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the entry of this amendment, the allowance of all of the claims, i.e., claims 7-10 and the passing of this application to issue therefore are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner is of the opinion that the prosecution of the application would be advanced by a further interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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